

Steve Reed

Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

I had a good job for two and a half years with no expectation of termination for quite awhile based on the nature of my profession. I was let go during the economic downturn. Within 6 months of being let go the company I worked for went bankrupt and closed.

I am a 55 year old worker and the unemployment extensions that have been provided by the federal government has allowed me to stay floating. I haven't had insurance since my last day at work. Jan. 16, 2009. My bills were greater than my ability to obtain Cobra.

I have looked for work since being laid off but the market is very bleak.

I am very concerned about my future at this age. Many college graduates are out of work and taking the jobs of those of us that were given the opportunity to work even though we didn't have Bachelor degrees. When the market turns around those of us in my age bracket without a B.A. are going to have a much more difficult time gaining full-time employment.

In Nevada, we are told the Tier 4 and the State extended benefits have been discontinued. So my 3rd tier Federal extension is over in a couple of weeks and I will be in a very difficult financial position if I am unable to depend on the federal benefits.

Please help us, pass this bill, we would work if we could find a job.

Steve Reed